

## MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Twenty-five Years Ago column; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings

*American Congress of Physical Therapy*, Philadelphia, September 10-13. Mr. Marion G. Smith, 30 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Secretary.

*American Public Health Association*, Pasadena, September 3-6. Kendall Emerson, M. D., 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, Executive Secretary.

*Pacific Northwest Orthopedic Association*, Seattle, September 1. J. C. Brugman, M. D., 1215 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, Secretary.

*Western Branch of American Public Health Association*, Pasadena, September 3-6. W. P. Shepard, M. D., 600 Stockton Street, San Francisco, Secretary.

### Medical Broadcasts\*

*American Medical Association Health Talks*.—The American Medical Association broadcasts on a western network of the Columbia Broadcasting System each Thursday afternoon on the Educational Forum from 4:30 to 4:45, central daylight saving time.

*San Francisco County Medical Society*.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of August is as follows: Tuesday, August 7—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Subject: The Immunization Campaign Against Smallpox and Diphtheria, by the San Francisco County Medical Society and the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Tuesday, August 14—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Subject: The Story of Jenner and the History of Vaccination.

Tuesday, August 21—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Subject: Smallpox—A Discussion of the Disease and Reasons for Vaccination.

Tuesday, August 28—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Subject: Diphtheria—A Discussion of the Disease and the Present Status of Immunization Against It.

The first two lectures in September will also be on this subject.

*Los Angeles County Medical Association*.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of August is as follows: Saturday, August 4—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk. Saturday, August 4—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, August 7—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, August 11—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk. Saturday, August 11—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, August 14—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, August 18—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk. Saturday, August 18—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, August 21—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

Saturday, August 25—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (giving station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Saturday, August 25—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

Tuesday, August 28—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.

**Cajal Laboratory of the Los Angeles County Hospital**.—The laboratory for neuropathology, section of the general laboratory of the new acute unit of the Los Angeles County Hospital, has been named in honor of the illustrious Spanish neurohistologist, Dr. Santiago Ramon y Cajal. Doctor Cajal has already honored this laboratory by contributing several of his books, as well as the *Travaux*, a journal published by the Instituto Cajal of the University of Madrid. A bronze plaque of Doctor Cajal has been made for the director's laboratory, and a bust will be placed later in the departmental library. The work of the laboratory will be under direction of Dr. Cyril B. Courville.

### Some Important State Election Dates:

August 28—Primary election.

September 27—Last day of registration for the general election.

November 6—General election.

Query—Are you registered?

**Prevention of Poliomyelitis Deformities**.—"Deformities caused by poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, can and should be prevented, if proper splintage is used immediately after the disease has attacked the patient.

"Authority for this statement is Dr. Leroy C. Abbott, clinical professor of orthopedic surgery in the University of California Medical School. Treatment, he says, should be started immediately after the onset of paralysis and should consist of absolute bed rest, support of weakened muscles, and the use of splints to prevent deformity.

"Immediately after the disease has attacked the patient, splints made of wire, metal or plaster of Paris, must be applied to the extremities, and the trunk held in position to overcome the tendency to deformity.

"Deformity is perhaps one of the main reasons why infantile paralysis is generally regarded as such a hopeless condition by the lay public. These deformities occur because of the unopposed action of gravity, overuse of unparalyzed muscles, which destroys muscle balance, and the habitual assumption of faulty attitudes by the patient. Later, these deformities become fixed by shortening of the muscles and ligaments, and finally by changes in the size, shape, and contour of the bones themselves."

"Massage is of some slight value in promoting a better circulation and improvement of the tone of the muscles, but it must not be employed until after the muscles have lost their tenderness. Many times this distressing feature of tenderness of arms and legs, frequent during the early stages of the disease, is prolonged by early massage.

"The most valuable method of treatment is muscle training. This consists of the carefully guided use of muscles to increase their power of contraction. Exercise to a greatly weakened muscle, however, must be given with caution. Overexercise and careless handling of the affected extremities are often more harmful than if nothing were done. Such exercising should be done by physical therapists, trained in anatomy, physiology, and the methods of prevention of deformity."

**California Sterilization Law Results.**—California has just completed the twenty-fifth year of operation under the eugenic sterilization law signed by Governor James N. Gillett for racial betterment.

In that time 10,123 persons have been sterilized by the state, including 5,146 men and 4,977 women, according to a report issued by the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena.

About three-fourths of the persons prevented from propagating their kind to fill prisons and asylums were totally insane and one-fourth were feeble-minded, Dr. Paul Poponoe, secretary of the Foundation, pointed out.

Two medical officials who have been connected directly with the administration of the sterilization for twenty-five years are Dr. Edwin Wayte, medical superintendent of Norwalk State Hospital, and Dr. G. M. Webster, medical superintendent of Patton State Hospital.

**Physical Therapy Session at Philadelphia.**—The thirteenth annual scientific and clinical session of the American Congress of Physical Therapy will be held in Philadelphia at the Bellevue Stratford, September 10-13, 1934.

This year's session will be especially noteworthy because of the excellent program which has been arranged. Outstanding clinicians and teachers will present the results of the newer researches in the field, emphasizing short-wave therapy, hyperpyrexia, light therapy, remedial exercise, massage, and other interesting subjects. On Wednesday evening, September 12, a joint session will be held with the Philadelphia County Medical Society. Special features will be the scientific and technical exhibits and the small group conferences. The latter have been arranged for Tuesday morning. Every specialty of medicine and surgery will be represented. The technical application of physical measures will be demonstrated and the fundamentals emphasized. The general sessions will be taken up with symposia on cancer, arthritis, poliomyelitis, industrial surgery, etc. Friday, September 14, has been set aside for hospital teaching clinics, which will be held in the leading institutions of Philadelphia.

Physicians and their technicians, properly vouched for, are eligible to attend. For preliminary program, address American Congress of Physical Therapy, 30 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

**University of California Hospital Out-Patient Department.**—The following memorandum, outlining general procedure governing admissions was recently sent out:

"The primary moral obligation of our clinic as a state-supported institution is to the taxpayers and citizens. We have, however, a very distinct obligation to help maintain the financial and moral integrity of the medical profession. Under these circumstances, it is our policy to reject any applicant who, in our opinion, can afford to pay a private physician's fees.

"In dealing with patients coming from individual members of the medical profession, we should be guided by the following procedures:

"1. If the patient brings a letter of recommendation from a physician, such letter should be considered as presumptive evidence that the patient is eligible.

"2. The usual social service examination should be made, however, and if the applicant is not clearly eligible, he should be referred to the director of the out-patient department for decision as to whether or not extenuating circumstances make it desirable that he be accepted, nevertheless.

"3. The procedure outlined in No. 1 and No. 2 is to be followed with respect to patients asking for hospital service as well as for those asking for clinic service.

"4. In every instance when an applicant applies without a letter from a doctor and it is found that a physician has treated the applicant, then a letter should be sent to the practitioner asking his opinion as to the patient's eligibility, and requesting any further information that he cares to give."

**Prize Offered by Geneva Congress.**—The sixth International Congress on Industrial Accidents and Diseases offers a prize of one thousand Swiss francs as an award to the author of the best (unpublished) original work on the subject, "The Importance of Previous Physical Condition in Estimating the Sequelae of an Industrial Accident." Physicians in all countries are permitted to take part. Manuscripts must be in hand by December 31, 1934. The award will be made at the time of the seventh congress, to be held in Brussels, mid-July, 1935. Those interested should communicate with Dr. Emery R. Hayhurst, Ohio Health Department, Columbus.

**University of California Medical School—Faculty Appointments.**—The members of the faculty listed below have been promoted, effective July 1, 1934:

E. L. Munson, lecturer in preventive medicine and public health, to professor of preventive medicine.

E. B. Shaw, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, to associate clinical professor of pediatrics.

N. Shock, research associate in physiology, to assistant professor of physiology.

H. H. Anderson, instructor in pharmacology, to assistant clinical professor of pharmacology.

K. O. Haldeman, instructor in orthopedic surgery, to assistant clinical professor of orthopedic surgery.

H. D. Crall, assistant in urology, to instructor in urology.

A. H. Heald, assistant in roentgenology, to instructor in pathology and roentgenology.

F. Kellogg, assistant in medicine, to instructor in medicine.

Following are new appointments for the year 1934-1935:

R. D. Friedlander, instructor in medicine.

H. M. Hand, instructor in medicine.

Following are some of the appointments made during the year 1933-1934:

A. J. Bayley, professor of medical military science and tactics.

Frances Baker, instructor in orthopedic surgery.

F. G. Novy, instructor in dermatology.

C. C. Odom, lecturer in psychiatry.

**Headquarters-Library Building of the Los Angeles County Medical Association Well on to Completion.**—

The Association "Bulletin" of August 2 prints the following item: "The library and permanent quarters buildings of the Los Angeles County Medical Association will be completed by September 1, according to the construction company officials. With occupancy of these buildings, general meetings of the Association will be resumed. They are being planned to be of genuine significance to every member. Watch this space for announcement of the house-warming celebration."

**California Court Decision Regarding Nurse Anesthetists.**—The Los Angeles *Herald-Express* of August 1, 1934, printed the following item:

*Court O. K.'s Nurse as Anesthetist.*—"A nurse is privileged under California law to administer anesthetics, according to a Superior Court ruling on file today.

"The ruling, of wide importance to the medical profession, was issued by Superior Judge Allan B. Campbell, sitting by assignment from Kern County, in denying an injunction to three physicians who sought to prevent Miss Dagmar A. Nelson, a nurse, from such practice. The suit was in the nature of a friendly action.

"Acts of the defendant, under the evidence introduced in this case, do not constitute the practice of medicine or surgery under the Medical Practice Act," Judge Campbell held."

**The American College of Physicians.**—The American College of Physicians will hold its nineteenth annual clinical session in Philadelphia, April 29 to May 3, 1935.

Announcement of these dates is made particularly with a view not only of apprising physicians generally of the meeting, but also to prevent conflicting dates with other societies that are now arranging their 1935 meetings.

Dr. Jonathan C. Meakins of Montreal, Quebec, is president of the American College of Physicians, and will arrange the program of general sessions. Dr. Alfred Stengel, vice-president in charge of medical affairs of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed general chairman of local arrangements, and will be in charge of the program of clinics. Mr. E. R. Loveland, executive secretary, 133-135 South Thirty-sixth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is in charge of general and business arrangements, and may be addressed concerning any feature of the forthcoming session.

**Causes of Cold and Pneumonia.**—"Is medical science placing too much dependence on bacteria and on filterable viruses as the causes of disease?"

"This question was raised before the section of epidemiology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science recently by two physicians on the staff of the University of California, Professor William J. Kerr and Dr. John D. Lagen.

"They reported that experiments which they have made on the transmissibility of the common cold led them to doubt that it is infectious, and suggest that the general adaptability of the body to a changing environment may be the inciting cause not only of colds but possibly of other diseases of the lower respiratory tract, including pharyngitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, and even pneumonia.

"Pointing out that for the past thirty years there has been a trend away from the idea of a bacterial origin of many diseases, the authors of the report stated that while bacteria may be a cause of secondary complications in the respiratory tract, and filterable viruses may sometimes play a primary rôle, environmental factors and the general body responses to them must be considered as preparing the soil to a greater degree than heretofore.

"The basis of the report made by Doctors Kerr and Lagen was a series of tests carried on in the University of California Hospital. A number of men having a history of high susceptibility to colds were placed in an isolated room under controlled temperature and humidity conditions. Then attempts were made to infect them with colds both by introducing individuals suffering from colds into the room, and by direct inoculation. But all these attempts to transmit colds failed. Also a careful study was made of the history of 1,500 cases of common cold.

"In conclusion, the University men said: 'The frequent recurrence of the common cold in susceptible individuals, its seasonal occurrence, the absence of fever and white blood cell increase in the early stage, are points against an infectious origin. We feel that the excessive cooling power of the air at certain times, acting upon the body when the skin pores are open through excessive exertion, fatigue or environmental factors themselves, all of which allow heat to dissipate readily through the skin, will, in the susceptible individual, produce a common cold. The lack of immunity or resistance, likewise seen in many common diseases of the lower respiratory tract, including pharyngitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, and even pneumonia, suggests that perhaps all of them may be initiated by another factor besides infection.'

"Further studies to check this theory concerning the cause of colds and perhaps other respiratory troubles, will be made in the immediate future."

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Subject of following letter: A communication from Director of Public Health Geiger of San Francisco on subject of compensation for hospital employees contracting poliomyelitis.**

*To the Editor:*—Your editorial in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 50, volume 41, number 1, with reference to compensation to employees of county hospitals who might come down with the disease because of contact, interested us very much.

Through the auditor of this department, Mr. P. R. Hennessy, and Mr. Ralph R. Nelson, secretary actuary of the San Francisco City and County Employees' Retirement System, the following general statement was obtained.

"In the cases of internes, house officers, student nurses contracting a communicable disease such as poliomyelitis while working with these cases, it would be considered an industrial accident and in the event of disability they would receive industrial accident compensation based on probable future earnings, the internes and house officers on a reasonable income, the student nurse on an income she would receive after graduation. The circumstances of each individual will have to govern each case."

I thought this might be of interest to you accordingly.

Fortunately, although over one-third of the cases of poliomyelitis in the recent increased incidence were taken care of in the City and County Hospital of San Francisco, no contact cases arose amongst employees.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,  
Director.

July 23, 1934.

**Subsequent to the receipt of the above, the following letter was received from Director Geiger:**

*Dear Doctor Geiger:*—Thank you for the note of July 24, 1934, transmitting a copy of your letter to Doctor Kress about the method of handling poliomyelitis cases among city employees arising from the performance of their duty.

The statement made in your letter to Doctor Kress is entirely correct if you were referring to permanent disabilities. A nurse, for example, who has poliomyelitis, incurred in performance of duty, and suffering a permanent disability of 15 per cent, would be entitled to sixty weeks' compensation benefit on the basis of the earnings of a graduate nurse.

On the contrary, if the nurse suffered only a temporary disability, with no permanent effects, then she would receive compensation during the period of disability, based on her earnings as a student nurse. At the San Francisco Hospital those earnings would be \$10 per month cash, plus \$27.50 as the value of allowances.

Generally, the theory of compensation is that it reimburses for loss of wages. A temporary disability causes only the loss of the student nurse's earnings. A disability lasting throughout life affects the earnings after graduation and consequently the benefits should take into account the earnings at that time.

Yours truly,

RALPH R. NELSON,  
Secretary Actuary, Retirement Board of  
San Francisco.

**Subject of following letter: Exception taken to statements in Doctor Kessel's "Amebiasis" article.**

*To the Editor:*—There are several statements in the article entitled "Amebiasis" by Dr. John F. Kessel in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, July, 1934, page 46, to which I must take exception.

1. The entire presumption that the Chicago epidemic of amebiasis was related to food handlers seems to be without support in fact.